



August 17, 2010

Calhoun County Public Health Department Enbridge Oil Spill Update

A list of frequently asked questions about the Enbridge Oil Spill can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill/ganda.html>. All other questions should be directed to the Enbridge Oil Spill hotline at 1-800-306-6837.

Air, water, and sediment sampling data is now available at <http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill>. Some of this data will be updated daily, while other data will be updated as it becomes available.

AIR QUALITY SAMPLING AND EVACUATION NOTICE UPDATE

Overview

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is monitoring outdoor air around the clock for a wide range of chemicals that are found in crude oil. The air sampling results have shown one chemical – benzene – at a level of potential concern for long-term health. It is important to understand that many of these “volatile organic compounds” (VOCs) coming from the oil can be smelled at levels below those that would cause long-term health problems.



Public Health Action

Recommend Evacuation: On July 29th, the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) issued a voluntary evacuation notice of residents directly affected in and around the site of the Enbridge Oil Spill. The evacuation area affected approximately 61 homes north and northwest of the oil spill site. The CCPHD and Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) officials and volunteers personally visited those homes affected to deliver notices of voluntary recommended evacuation.

The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCS), along with the CCPHD and MDCH, recommend that people avoid spending time in the immediate area around the portions of the river impacted by the oil spill.

Daily Update

Recommended Evacuation lifted in some areas: Benzene air levels within the Recommended Evacuation area are lower and have been below the level of concern for at

least three days in a row. Due to these air levels, CCPHD has lifted the Recommended Evacuation for approximately 50 homes north and northwest of the oil spill site. Publicly accessible areas outside the Recommended Evacuation area also remain below the level of concern.

Representatives of the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) have been going door-to-door within the lifted evacuation area delivering informational packets and conducting health assessment surveys with those who are willing to participate. CCPHD and MDCH representatives will also be contacting those residents in the continued recommended evacuation area. The individuals going door-to-door are wearing *Enbridge Pipeline Release Unified Command, CCPHD, or MDCH* photo ID badges and are identifying themselves as being from CCPHD or MDCH.

Although data trends have been encouraging, CCPHD wants residents in the Recommended Evacuation area to be aware that there is a possibility that another recommended evacuation may occur. The outdoor air quality in affected areas will continue to be monitored around the clock by the EPA. Every day, CCPHD, together with public health officials from multiple state and federal agencies, will review the EPA air monitoring data. If benzene concentrations return to levels of concern, a CCPHD representative will visit homes in the affected area to update residents.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING, PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY AND BAN UPDATE

Private Well Monitoring

Overview

The Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCS), together with state and federal government partners, have been conducting a systematic evaluation of private drinking wells located within 200 feet of either side of the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek.

The investigation and response, which began on July 27, includes a review of well construction records, movement of ground water, and determination of areas of greatest risk. Public health officials have found no well contamination and will continue periodic monitoring into the future.



Public Health Action

Advisory: While no contamination has been found, as a precaution, the CCPHD and KCHCS have been providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to those who live in homes with private wells within 200 feet of either side of the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek.

The CCPHD issued a water advisory for specified residents directly affected by the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill. Residents affected include those with private wells living within 200 feet from the edge of the river bank between Talmadge Creek (site of oil spill) and west along the Kalamazoo River to the Kalamazoo County line.

It is recommended that, as a precaution, specified residents stop using their well water for drinking and cooking. At this time, all other household uses – including dishwashing and showering – are acceptable.

Bottled water is available at the following locations and times:

- **Ceresco Baptist Church**, 230 C Drive North, Ceresco Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **American Red Cross**, 14600 Beadle Lake, Battle Creek, Monday through Thursday 9 am - 5 pm and Friday 9 am - 4 pm
- **Family Fare**, 15900 W Michigan, Marshall, Open 24 hours/day

Daily Update

Approximately 60% of wells in areas of impact have been sampled. All ground water sample results have been clear of any indication of contamination in water due to the spill.

Long-term well monitoring will continue. If you are concerned and live within the 200-foot zone around the river, you may also request to have your well water tested at any time by calling (269) 969-6341. CCPHD officials have responded to calls about ground water concerns within 24 hours and will continue to respond as quickly as possible.

The municipal water supplies of Marshall and Battle Creek have been and will continue to be safe as the sources of the water supplies are several miles away from the contaminated areas. These water supplies are regularly tested as required by state and federal regulations.

Surface Water Sampling

Overview

State and federal government partners are conducting an intensive investigation into surface water contamination from the Enbridge pipeline release. The investigation includes ongoing measurements of the surface water quality and review of the presence and movement of oil within the Kalamazoo River system.

Public Health Actions

Advisories: The Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KCHCS) issued advisories to avoid all contact with water from the Kalamazoo River until



further notice. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has advised people to not eat fish from Talmadge Creek or the Kalamazoo River to the west end of Morrow Lake.

Bans: The CCPHD and KCHCS issued a ban on the use of water for the purpose of all irrigation and watering of livestock. Both CCPHD and KCHCS have also issued a ban on surface water activities on the Kalamazoo River, including swimming, wading, fishing, boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Local health officials warn citizens to avoid all contact with water from the impacted areas of the Kalamazoo River until further notice.

The two reasons for this temporary ban include:

1. Human Health

The oil release into the Kalamazoo River contaminated the water with chemicals known to be harmful to human health. Using contaminated water for irrigating crops, lawns, and gardens, as well as watering and livestock/pets, presents a human health risk, until such time oil is removed and future monitoring shows no lingering contamination of concern.

2. Ground water Contamination

Using contaminated river water for irrigating crops, lawns, and gardens can contaminate ground water (a source of drinking water for most homes along the river).

Daily Update

Staff from the Calhoun Conservation District will be conducting telephone and face-to-face surveys of persons who live or have property on Talmadge Creek or the Kalamazoo River downstream to Morrow Lake Dam. This survey is designed to determine which properties have the capacities to irrigate lawns and field crops. This is not an enforcement action; rather it is designed to assist in developing long-term remediation plans along the river and to remind residents of the ban on using water from the river.

To date, monitoring indicates that both the Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River from the point where the creek joins the river to Morrow Lake are still contaminated. Surface water sampling continues and the development of a long-term surface water sampling and monitoring protocol is currently underway.

On a daily basis, health officials continue to review the cleanup efforts, reports of oily sheen on water, and surface water data. Using this information, health officials will decide when these advisories can be removed.

HEALTH REFERRAL UPDATE

If you do not have health insurance and would like to talk to a doctor about your health related to the oil spill, please contact 1-800-306-6837 for a referral. Qualified individuals who live within 200 feet of either side of Talmadge Creek or the Kalamazoo River may also visit the Enbridge Community Centers in Marshall and Battle Creek to request a referral to a local clinic that can provide medical professional screening and advice specific to your own personal health.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Calhoun County Fair: August 14 – 21, 2010. The fair begins on Saturday with no disruptions expected as a result of the efforts focused on the spill.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Overview

The CCPHD and MDCH have been conducting surveys to assess the public health impact related to the Enbridge Oil Spill. Short-term symptoms from exposure to the crude oil can include headache, nausea, vomiting, respiratory problems, and rashes... A system to obtain and log reports from health care providers of patients with possible oil-spill related symptoms has been established. Additionally, a list of citizen self-reports is being maintained. The public health surveillance team is also visiting a number of affected communities with significant concerns about the oil spill odor and its health effects and conducting door-to-door community surveys of residents' health concerns.

Daily Update

Since August 12, 2010, CCPHD AND MDCH have been visiting affected neighborhoods and conducting surveys of those individuals. An approximate 5-minute-long survey has been administered to those who volunteer to share their experience with crude oil odors, their family's basic health history, and any health problems due to the pipeline release. CCPHD and MDCH has also been asking about their living situation due to the pipeline release – including whether or not they have temporarily relocated from their home at any time since July 26.